



Loudoun County Sheriff's Office

Crime Prevention Unit



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue:

Home Security Insp.	2
Warm Up	2
F.A.Q's	2
Upcoming Events	2
Code of Virginia	3

Important Numbers:

- * **Emergency 911**
- * **Non-Emergency**
703-777-1021
703-777-0445
- * **Poison Control**
1-800-222-1222
- * **Animal Control**
703-777-0406
- * **Sheriff's Office Admin**
703-771-0407
- * **Narcotic Tip Line**
703-779-0552
- * **Crime Solvers**
703-777-1919

Issue 7

April 1, 2009

Spring Break!!!

Some people will be planning to take a well deserved holiday during this time of the year. Do not forget that when you wish to take a vacation plan on doing some basic crime prevention to help protect your property.

Loudoun County Sheriff's Office would like to offer citizens a few safety tips to make the Spring Break a bit safer.

1. Tell a trusted neighbor when you will be away. Have them pick up your mail, newspapers, and keep an extra eye out on your property.
2. Make your home look

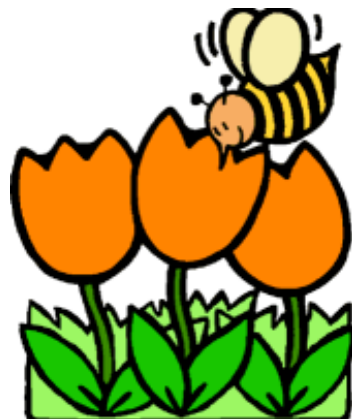
as if it is occupied.

Have your lights on timers that have random on-off switches.

3. If you have an automatic garage door opener make sure you lock, unplug, or turn the power off to it. Also a good idea would be to use the manual lock.
4. You can call the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number and ask for a patrol unit to check on your house while you are away.
5. Secure all vehicles that will be left at home and

remove all small electronics, garage door openers, and money from those vehicles.

6. Make sure the yard is taken care of (grass mowed and yard cleaned) as this can be a good indicator of whether or not the



Walking, Jogging, and Running Safety

With the recent occurrences in Loudoun County one question that the Crime Prevention Unit is getting asked a lot now is, "How do we keep ourselves safe when we are outside running, jogging, and walking?"

1. One of the main things

would be pay attention to your surroundings and don't get complacent.

2. Stay in groups.
3. Tell people where you are going and when to expect you back.
4. Carry a cell phone and an Id with you.

5. Try to only go out in the daylight hours.
6. Walk, jog, or run on well lit and well traveled pathways.
7. Vary your walking/running paths.
8. Report any suspicious activity.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I pass a school bus on a divided highway if I am going in the opposite direction of the school bus?

A: According to Code of Virginia section 46.2-859: If the road is divided by a median that is not paved you do not have to stop.

Q: What are the laws relating to Moped's and mini motorcycles?

A: This question comes up a lot in the summertime. First a moped is defined as -
a vehicle that travels on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground that has a seat that is no less than 24 inches in height, measured from the middle of the seat perpendicular to the

ground and a gasoline, electric, or hybrid motor that displaces less than 50 cubic centimeters.

A mini-motorcycle is defined as a motorcycle that has a gasoline engine that displaces less than 150 cubic centimeters; has a seat less than 24 inches in height, measured from the middle of the seat perpendicular to the ground; and has no manufacturer-issued vehicle identification number.

Both have laws regulating their use on roadways. The moped rules are:

1. No moped will be operated on a highway faster than 35mph. If operated faster than 35mph the individual will be considered as operating a motorcycle.

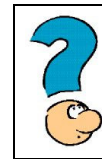
2. No moped will be driven on a highway by anyone under the age of 16 and every person operating a moped shall carry some form of identification.

The mini-motorcycle rules are:

No person shall operate a motor driven cycle on any public highway.

If you would like to have a question answered, please e-mail the question to:

Nathaniel.Payne@loudoun.gov or James.Spurlock@loudoun.gov



Home Security Inspections

As a reminder to everyone, Loudoun County Sheriff's Office offers home security inspections for free. The inspection will consist of a deputy walk through of the residence. After the walk through, a deputy will provide a report that will give you recommendations about improving the

security in your residence. This can be scheduled by calling Deputy Specialist Payne at 703-777-0477 or Deputy Specialist Spurlock at 703-771-5749.



Warm up

As the weather gets warmer normally the crime rate picks up. Also as the economy gets worse it will increase the crime rate. Loudoun County Crime Prevention wants all citizens to be aware of this and be extra vigilant in the coming months. Please call in any suspicious activity to the Sheriff's Office. Let's all plan on having a fun and safe summer.

Upcoming events

April 14th, 700 pm Gang Awareness, Ashburn Location: Lakes Recreation Center

April 23rd, 700 pm Home Security, Belmont County Club

May 4, 2009 730 pm Basic Internet Safety for Parents, South Riding

October 13, 700 pm Home Security, Ashburn Location: Lakes Recreation Center

If your Neighborhood Watch is interested in hosting any classes please call or e-mail your Neighborhood Watch Coordinator.

Code of Virginia, School Bus

§ 46.2-859. Passing a stopped **school bus**.

A person is guilty of reckless driving who fails to stop, when approaching from any direction, any **school bus** which is stopped on any highway, private road or school driveway for the purpose of taking on or discharging children, the elderly, or mentally or physically handicapped persons, and to remain stopped until all the persons are clear of the highway, private road or school driveway and the bus is put in motion. The driver of a vehicle, however, need not stop when approaching a **school bus** if the **school bus** is stopped on the other roadway of a divided highway, on an access road, or on a driveway when the other roadway, access road, or driveway is separated from the roadway on which he is driving by a physical barrier or an unpaved area. The driver of a vehicle also need not stop when approaching a **school bus** which is loading or discharging passengers from or onto property immediately adjacent to a school if the driver is directed by a law-enforcement officer or other duly authorized uniformed school crossing guard to pass the **school bus**. This section shall apply to **school buses** which are equipped with warning devices prescribed in § 46.2-1090 and are painted yellow with the words "**School Bus**" in black letters at least eight inches high on the front and rear thereof. Only **school buses** which are painted yellow and equipped with the required lettering and warning devices shall be identified as **school buses**.

Code of Virginia, Moped/Mini Motorcycle

§ 46.2-100. Definitions.

"Moped" means every vehicle that travels on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground that has (i) a seat that is no less than 24 inches in height, measured from the middle of the seat perpendicular to the ground and (ii) a gasoline, electric, or hybrid motor that displaces less than 50 cubic centimeters. For purposes of Chapter 8 (§ [46.2-800](#) et seq.) of this title, a moped shall be a vehicle while operated on a highway.

"Motor-driven cycle" means every motorcycle that has a gasoline engine that (i) displaces less than 150 cubic centimeters; (ii) has a seat less than 24 inches in height, measured from the middle of the seat perpendicular to the ground; and (iii) has no manufacturer-issued vehicle identification number.

Mopeds

§ 46.2-914. Limitations on operation of **mopeds**.

A. No **moped** shall be driven on any highway or public vehicular area faster than 35 miles per hour. Any person who operates a **moped** faster than 35 miles per hour shall be deemed, for all the purposes of this title, to be operating a motorcycle.

B. No **moped** shall be driven on any highway by any person under the age of 16, and every person driving a **moped** shall carry with him some form of identification that includes his name, address, and date of birth.

Mini Motor Cycle

§ 46.2-911.1. Operation of motor-driven cycles on public highways prohibited.

No person shall operate a motor-driven cycle on or over any public highway in the Commonwealth.